

4-26-1883

Gray, Alonzo, 04/26/1883

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3901 Cour. Ar.

Headquarters Department of the Platte,

Omaha, Neb. 26 Apr. 1853

Alouzo Gray, Esq.

Oliver James

My dear Sir:

Your letter of  
inquiry is at hand. You have  
not yet received an appointment to  
the military academy. Should you  
succeed in getting one thro. your  
representative in Congress. You  
wish me to advise you whether or  
not it would be wise to accept.  
Such I understand to be the  
drift of your inquiry. I would  
say yes if you are physically well  
& strong, without physical defect,  
and if you are mentally well &  
strong with a good preparation.

My friend Chaplain Pasternak  
is laboring hard for the moral  
& spiritual welfare of the young  
men. Surely there is no need of  
immorality and there is every  
advantage of spiritual culture.

More than half the

M. S. Cadets are members of  
Christian churches. They have  
a good Y. M. C. & a good  
prayer meeting. The exercise  
& discipline (which you fear  
is persecution) are severe  
at first, but not insurmountable  
for energetic & plucky youths.

I never found it necessary  
to use a profane oath, nor  
to drink intoxicating liquor, while  
I was a cadet. Cadets are like  
other young men - some upright



and some wicked. Some  
become christians & many  
lead strictly moral lives. while  
some despise Christianity  
& <sup>some</sup> sooner or later stray  
off into deplorable habits.

On the whole they will  
compare favorably with any  
other body of young men  
of the same size.

The teaching at the  
academy is thorough &  
good. Very truly yours

O. O. Howard

Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

A cadet can resign at any  
time. generally his resignation  
will be accepted. O. O. H.